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RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 000147

SIPDIS
DRL FOR A/S POSNER
FOR NEA, NEA/ELA AND DRL/NESCA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2035/01/31
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [KDEM](#) [EG](#)
SUBJECT: A/S POSNER PRESSES GOE ON POLICE BRUTALITY, NGO
REGISTRATIONS

REF: CAIRO 47; 09 CAIRO 2164; 09 CAIRO 2064; 09 CAIRO 451
07 CAIRO 3214

CLASSIFIED BY: Margaret Scobey, Ambassador, State; REASON: 1.4(B),
(D)

1. KEY POINTS

-- (C) In meetings January 12-13, A/S Posner raised the issue of
police brutality and prison conditions with senior GOE officials.

-- (C) Interior Ministry State Security (SSIS) Director Hassan
Abdel Rahman asserted that SSIS has not abused prisoners "in the
past ten years." He claimed that the MOI played no role in the
case of Cairo resident XXXXXXXXXXXX who, according to multiple NGOs, was abused repeatedly by police in January 2009. Rahman claimed there are

-- (C) MFA Deputy Assistant Minister for Human Rights Wael
Aboulmagd said the GOE takes the issue of police brutality
seriously, and has increased the number of prosecutions against
offices for torture and abuse.

12. (C) Comment: Per ref B, credible human rights lawyers believe
police brutality continues to be a pervasive, daily occurrence in
GOE detention centers, and that SSIS has adapted to increased media
and blogger focus on police brutality by hiding the abuse and
pressuring victims not to bring cases. NGOs assess prison
conditions to be poor, due to overcrowding and lack of medical
care, food, clean water, and proper ventilation. Per ref E,
following a landmark 2007 sentencing of police officers for
assaulting and sodomizing a bus driver, courts have continued to
sentence officers to prison terms for brutality. End comment.

Police Brutality and Prison Conditions

13. (C) In a January 12 meeting with Interior Ministry State
Security Director Rahman, A/S Posner asked what measures the GOE
takes to address police brutality and difficult prison conditions,
and what the U.S. could do to help. Rahman said "in the past ten
years" there has been "no abuse of prisoners at all." He
acknowledged there may have been "some violations" against
"terrorists" in prison in the 1970's and 1980's. Posner raised the
case of XXXXXXXXXXXX who was abused by police in XXXXXXXXXXXX according to multiple NGO reports (refs C, D). (Note: The Ambassador raised thi
government is focused on prisoners' health and their
rehabilitation.

14. (C) A/S Posner also raised police brutality with MFA Deputy
Assistant Minister for Human Rights Wael Aboulmagd who responded
that the GOE takes the issue seriously. Aboulmagd said that since
2005, the Interior Ministry stopped paying fines for police
officers found to have abused detainees. He noted increased
prosecutions against police officers for torture and abuse.
Aboulmagd said the Interior Ministry is participating in human
rights training through the UN Development Program, and internal
courses. He opined that it would take a "generation of training"
before the police accepted the concept of human rights.

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U.S. Support for Civil Society

15. (C) Rahman asserted that the U.S. funds NGOs and human rights
organizations dominated by "communists and extremists." He claimed
these "communists" do not care about democracy, and want to weaken
the GOE in response to Egypt's movement away from the Soviet Union
and toward the U.S. in the 1970's. The Ambassador pushed back,
saying that the U.S. does not fund NGOs connected to the Muslim
Brotherhood or extremists. She noted the U.S. funds NGOs to
promote civic education, human rights training and election
monitoring. She urged SSIS to allow increased registration of
NGOs. A/S Posner urged Rahman to allow NGOs to register even if
they are critical of the GOE.

16. (U) A/S Posner cleared this message.
SCOBAY